

Dennis Bjorkquist, Chairperson B. Allan O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson Colleen Kenny, Secretary

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 26, 2009 5:00 P.M.

Manistee County Courthouse 415 Third Street, Manistee, Michigan

Members Present:

Dennis Bjorkquist, Chairperson; B. Allan O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson and

Colleen Kenny, Secretary

Others Present:

Thomas Kaminski, Administrative Support, Jeri Lyn Prielipp, Recording Secretary, and audience members representing the public and the media

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken and all members reported present.

The Chairman requested approval of the meeting Agenda and the regular meeting Minutes from Monday, December 8, 2008, and the biennial selection meeting Minutes from Monday, January 12, 2009,

There was a motion by Ms. Kenny, supported by Mr. O'Shea to approve the Monday, January 26, 2009 Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Mr. O'Shea, supported by Ms. Kenny to approve the Monday, December 8, 2008 regular meeting minutes, as presented, and to approve the Monday, January 12, 2009, biennial selection meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

Under public comment, Sandy Kittlaus expressed her gratitude to the Board members for all of their hard work and the wonderful things that the grant dollars have done for Manistee County.

The Board proceeded to consider the four (4) proposals received from law firms interested in providing legal counsel services to the Board. Proposals received for consideration were submitted by:

- 1) Dennis M. Swain, Attorney at Law, out of Kaleva, Michigan
- 2) Ezekiel (Zeke) Fletcher, Attorney at Law, with the firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP out of Lansing, Michigan
- 3) Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C., out of East Lansing, Michigan
- 4) R. Lance Boldrey, Attorney at Law, with the firm of Dykema Gossett, PLLC out of Lansing, Michigan

Ms. Kenny stated that after a careful review of the proposals, she has narrowed her choice down to either Regulatory Management Counselsors, P.C. or R. Lance Boldrey with Dykema Gossett, PLLC. Chairman Bjorkquist said he too was leaning toward Dykema Gossett.

Mr. O'Shea stated that regardless of which law firm is chosen, he wants assurance from that firm that they have no working relationship whatsoever or affiliation with the law firm of Kelley Cawthorne, either now or in the past.

Chairman Bjorkquist recognized Dennis Swain in the audience and stated he was pleased and impressed that Mr. Swain attended the meeting.

Following discussion amongst the Board members on the proposals for legal services,

There was a motion by Ms. Kenny, supported by Mr. O'Shea to accept the proposal submitted by R. Lance Boldrey, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933, to provide legal counsel services to the Manistee Local Revenue Sharing Board, and that all communications between legal counsel and the Revenue Sharing Board shall pass through the County Controller/Administrator's Office. Motion carried.

Chairman Bjorkquist instructed Mr. Kaminski to inform Mr. Boldrey of Dykema Gossett PLLC that the Board is interested in retaining the firm to provide legal services to the Revenue Sharing Board and Mr. Kaminski is also to inquire what, if any, working relationship Dykema Gossett PLLC has or may have had with the law firm of Kelley Cawthorne.

Chairman Bjorkquist then asked what questions the Board wished to ask legal counsel? After brief discussion, Dennis Swain cautioned that initially the Board may want to consider meeting with legal counsel to seek advice on the questions they have, as there may be issues that could result in litigation that should not be discussed in an open forum. He stated that attorney/client communication is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. Chairman Bjorkquist thanked Mr. Swain for his advice.

Chairman Bjorkquist instructed Mr. Kaminski to send a letter to Dykema Gossett PLLC, informing them that the Board would like to meet with a representative from the firm and to come up with some dates when the firm's representative would be available. Once he has some dates, Mr. Kaminski will coordinate schedules to set up a special meeting of the Manistee Local Revenue Sharing Board.

The Chairman announced that the Revenue Sharing Board will conduct its Organizational Meeting at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9, 2009 at the Road Commission building.

There being no further business to come before the Revenue Sharing Board and with no other concerns from Board members, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Kenny, Secretary

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